

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of controlling a network node to process a  
2 plurality of packet flows, the method comprising:  
3 receiving packets corresponding to a flow;  
4 determining if the packets in the flow correspond to a communications  
5 protocol which is responsive to congestion signaling;  
6 when said flow is determined to include packets corresponding to a  
7 communications protocol which is responsive to congestion signaling:  
8 determining if the ~~first~~ flow performs in a manner  
9 indicating that the flow is indicative of responsive to congestion  
10 signaling;  
11 forwarding at least some received packets  
12 corresponding to the ~~first~~ flow when it is determined that the ~~first~~ flow  
13 performs in a manner indicating that it is responsive to congestion  
14 signaling; and  
15 blocking the packets from said the flow when said ~~first~~  
16 the flow is determined to perform in a manner indicating that it is non-  
17 responsive to congestion signaling.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining if the  
2 packets in said flow correspond to a communications protocol which is responsive to  
3 congestion signaling includes:  
4 checking said flow to determine if it uses the Transmission Control  
5 Protocol (TCP).

1 Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein determining if the flow performs  
2 in a manner indicative of responsive to congestion signaling includes:  
3 monitoring a flow rate of said flow to determine if the monitored flow  
4 rate decreases in response to congestion signaling.

1 Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the monitored flow rate is a  
2 packet arrival rate at said network node.

1 Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said congestion signaling  
2 includes dropped packet information.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forwarding at least  
2 some received packets includes:  
3 determining if said flow rate of said flow exceeds a baseline flow rate;  
4 and  
5 performing a forced flow rate reduction operation in response to  
6 determining that said flow rate of said flow exceeds said baseline flow rate.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein said step of performing a forced  
2 flow rate reduction operation includes:  
3 dropping at least some received packets from said flow thereby  
4 resulting in fewer forwarded packets than received packets.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:~~  
2 A method of controlling a network node to process a plurality of packet flows, the  
3 method comprising:  
4 receiving packets corresponding to a flow;  
5 determining if the packets in the flow correspond to a communications  
6 protocol which is responsive to congestion signaling;  
7 when said flow is determined to include packets corresponding to a  
8 communications protocol which is responsive to congestion signaling;  
9 determining if the flow performs in a manner indicating  
10 that the flow is responsive to congestion signaling;

11 forwarding at least some received packets  
12 corresponding to the flow when it is determined that the flow performs  
13 in a manner indicating that the flow is responsive to congestion  
14 signaling; and  
15 blocking the packets from the flow when the flow is  
16 determined to perform in a manner indicating that it is non-responsive  
17 to congestion signaling; and  
18 generating a flow rate baseline for a class of flows received by said  
19 node, the step of generating a flow rate baseline including:  
20 i) monitoring a plurality of flow rates, each one of the  
21 plurality of flow rates being for one of a plurality of flows in said  
22 class, received by said node over a period of time; and  
23 ii) processing said monitored flow rates to generate a  
24 composite flow rate for a flow in said class.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said composite flow rate is an  
2 average flow rate.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein said average flow  
2 rate is a smoothed average flow rate.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 receiving packets corresponding to an additional flow;  
3 determining if the packets in the additional flow correspond to a  
4 communications protocol which is responsive to congestion signaling;  
5 when said additional flow is determined to include packets  
6 corresponding to a communications protocol which is non-responsive to congestion  
7 signaling;  
8 forwarding at least some received packets in said additional flow.

1 Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the step of forwarding at least  
2 some received packets in said additional flow includes:  
3 determining if a flow rate of said additional flow exceeds an additional  
4 baseline flow rate; and  
5 performing a forced flow rate reduction operation in response to  
6 determining that said flow rate of said additional flow exceeds said additional  
7 baseline flow rate.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said step of performing a  
2 forced flow rate reduction operation includes:  
3 dropping at least some received packets from said additional flow  
4 thereby resulting in fewer forwarded packets in said additional flow than received  
5 packets.

1 Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the step of determining if the  
2 packets in the additional flow correspond to a communications protocol which is  
3 responsive to congestion signaling includes the step of:  
4 determining whether said additional flow includes packets which are  
5 to be delivered using best effort techniques.

Claims 15-21 (canceled)